

say we greatly appreciate all of Michael's dedicated effort. We thank Michael for a job well done and we wish him every success in his bright future.

RECOGNIZING THE 50TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE BRUCE W. CARTER VA MEDICAL CENTER

HON. THEODORE E. DEUTCH

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 8, 2018

Mr. DEUTCH. Mr. Speaker, I rise today along with my colleagues, Representative ALCEE HASTINGS, Representative DEBBIE WASSERMAN SCHULTZ and Representative FREDERICA WILSON, to recognize 50 years of service to our Veterans in South Florida. The Miami VA Medical Center, renamed the Bruce W. Carter VA Medical Center in 2008, held its ribbon cutting on May 5, 1968. Originally a 630,000 square foot facility, the facility has nearly doubled in size to care for more than 57,000 Veterans per year in Miami-Dade, Broward, and Monroe Counties.

The Miami VA Healthcare System is an accredited comprehensive medical provider, providing general medical, surgical, inpatient and outpatient mental health services. Recognized as a Center of Excellence in Spinal Cord Injury Research and Substance Abuse Treatment, it also houses an AIDS/HIV center, a prosthetic treatment center, spinal cord injury rehabilitative center, chest pain center, and Geriatric Research, Education, and Clinical Center (GRECC). Additionally, the Miami VA Medical Center was home to the first nursing home in the VA System.

Mr. Speaker, as a parent facility, the Bruce W. Carter VA Medical Center supports 8 VA clinics from Key West to Deerfield Beach. These include two major satellite Outpatient Clinics, five Community Based Outpatient Clinics, and four Readjustment Counseling Centers, or Vet Centers. These Miami VA Healthcare System facilities serve our Veterans through their more than 750,000 visits each year.

We join together to recognize the Miami VA Healthcare System and its continued service on behalf of our Veterans. We support the Miami VA Healthcare System in its mission to honor America's Veterans by providing exceptional health care that improves their health and wellness.

ETHAN GARCIA

HON. ED PERLMUTTER

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 8, 2018

Mr. PERLMUTTER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and applaud Ethan Garcia for receiving the Arvada Wheat Ridge Service Ambassadors for Youth award.

Ethan Garcia is a student at Mandalay Middle School and received this award because his determination and hard work have allowed him to overcome adversities.

The dedication demonstrated by Ethan Garcia is exemplary of the type of achievement that can be attained with hard work and perseverance. It is essential students at all levels strive to make the most of their education and develop a work ethic which will guide them for the rest of their lives.

I extend my deepest congratulations to Ethan Garcia for winning the Arvada Wheat Ridge Service Ambassadors for Youth award. I have no doubt he will exhibit the same dedication and character in all of his future accomplishments.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. LUIS V. GUTIÉRREZ

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 8, 2018

Mr. GUTIÉRREZ. Mr. Speaker, I was unavoidably absent in the House chamber for roll call votes 167 and 168 on Monday, May 7, 2018. Had I been present, I would have voted Yea.

IN RECOGNITION OF GREG REED

HON. ROBERT J. WITTMAN

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 8, 2018

Mr. WITTMAN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in recognition of Greg Reed, band teacher at Fredericksburg Christian School and Commander of the Enduring Freedom Honor Team.

Under Greg's leadership, the Honor Team performs 30–50 events annually at a variety of different venues including the National D-Day Memorial; the National Museum of the Marine Corps; the Pentagon; Walter Reed Army Hospital; National Naval Medical Center; the Capitol; National Mall; and countless VA hospitals. The group has received recognition from military installations and the Virginia House of Delegates. Additionally, they support the Honor Flight Program, performing for more than 500 World War II and Korean War veterans as they visit the nation's Capital and the National Museum of the Marine Corps.

Greg enjoys watching his students interact with veterans and grow from these experiences. The Honor Team's main missions are to bring awareness, gratefulness, and recognition to the United States Military and their families' sacrifices, past and present.

Mr. Speaker, I ask you to join me in thanking Greg for his leadership and continued desire to give back to veterans.

HONORING BETHEL AFRICAN METHODIST EPISCOPAL CHURCH

HON. BENNIE G. THOMPSON

OF MISSISSIPPI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 8, 2018

Mr. THOMPSON of Mississippi. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor a pillar of the commu-

nity, Bethel African Methodist Episcopal Church. Bethel AME has served as a catalyst for the African American growth in Yazoo County and the State of Mississippi.

Organized in 1868, Bethel is the oldest African American congregation in Yazoo City. Designed by A.S. King, Bethel A.M.E. is one of the earliest brick churches built by African Americans in Mississippi, and is the only downtown Yazoo City church building left standing after the fire of 1904. Although the building has had alterations, Bethel retains its historic Romanesque Revival tower, whose steeple is clad in sheet metal panels stamped to resemble shingles.

A group of African Americans first began worshipping in what was known as "The Market" shortly after Emancipation. The vision of the church at its current location began on May 29, 1874 when the church acquired the property at 214 S. Monroe Street. According to church history the building was erected under the leadership of Rev. Dangerfield.

One original piece that strikes a chord with its long time members is the bell inside the steeple. The bell is still very present in the hearts of church members. The bell could be heard throughout the community sending sounds of joy, fellowship and worship.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing Bethel African Methodist Episcopal Church for its rich heritage and dedication to serving others and giving back to the community.

AREZ GHAFOUR

HON. ED PERLMUTTER

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 8, 2018

Mr. PERLMUTTER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and applaud Arez Ghafour for receiving the Arvada Wheat Ridge Service Ambassadors for Youth award.

Arez Ghafour is a student at Drake Middle School and received this award because his determination and hard work have allowed him to overcome adversities.

The dedication demonstrated by Arez Ghafour is exemplary of the type of achievement that can be attained with hard work and perseverance. It is essential students at all levels strive to make the most of their education and develop a work ethic which will guide them for the rest of their lives.

I extend my deepest congratulations to Arez Ghafour for winning the Arvada Wheat Ridge Service Ambassadors for Youth award. I have no doubt he will exhibit the same dedication and character in all of his future accomplishments.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. EVAN H. JENKINS

OF WEST VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 8, 2018

Mr. JENKINS of West Virginia. Mr. Speaker, had I been present, I would have voted YEA on Roll Call No. 167 and YEA on Roll Call No. 168.